

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. By this Amendment, claims 6 and 18 are amended and claim 10 is canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-9 and 11-20 are pending in this application of which claims 1-5 are withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants acknowledge the indication in the Office Action that the four foreign references filed with the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 17, 2004 fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2). Applicants herewith submit legible copies of each cited foreign patent document.

The rejection of claims 6-9, 12-14, and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,948,199 to McGrew in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,308,630 to Kurokawa is respectfully traversed based upon the amendment to claim 6.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 10, 11, and 15-18 contain allowable subject matter. Independent claim 6 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 10 and claim 10 is herewith canceled. Accordingly, claim 6 is allowable and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested. Claim 7-9 and 11-20 depend from independent claim 6 and are likewise patentable over the asserted combination of references art for at least their dependence on an allowable base claim, as well as for the additional features it/they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

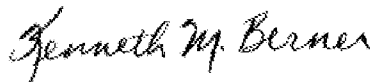
Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN HAM & BERNER, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth M. Berner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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